Illegal telephone exchanges

2422. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the illegal telephone exchanges operating in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the officials of the VSNL and the BSNL are involved in running such illegal telephone exchanges;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the strategies to be adopted to unearth functioning of such illegal telephone exchanges and also to book the officials of VSNL/BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Whenever any clandestine illegal exchange is detected in the network, the same is raided with the help of CBI/Police, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) and other Private Telecom. Operators.

(b) 184 such cases involving illegal transitioning of incoming international calls by passing the gateways of licensed international Long Distance Operators, have been detected so far.

(c) and (d) In all these cases, no official of VSNL and BSNL was found involved. Only private persons were found involved.

(e) The following steps have been taken in the matter:

(i) FIRs have been filed with the police authorities.

(ii) Surveillance has been increased to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the calls traffic.

(iii) Dedicated CBI cells have been set up in four metros for exclusively detecting and checking telecom, related frauds.

(iv) Department of Telecom, have issued instructions/guidelines to all services providers for effective monitoring, detection and prevention of such illegal set ups/frauds.

(v) Training and presentations are being given to the senior Telecom. Officers for better awareness regarding effective detection and prevention of such illegal set ups.

(vi) A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.

Illegal telephone exchange

2423. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of officials of DoT and MTNL raided premises on the 6th August, 2004 near Kalkaji Bus Depot in South Delhi and unearthed an illegal telephone exchange running there;

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(c) the particulars of persons arrested in this connection;

(d) the loss Government have suffered, so far, due to the illegal international phone calls made through the illegal telephone exchange; and

(e) the measures Government have taken to curb the flourishing international phone calls market and the extent of success achieved in these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A team of officers of DoT, MTNL, VSNL and Delhi Police raided the premises at 118/2 llnd Floor, Govindpuri near Kalkaji Bus Depot In South Delhi and unearthed an illegal telephone exchange running for incoming international calls.

(c) Two private persons namely, Bini S P and Bini S K were arrested by the police.

(d) The estimated loss suffered is Rupees one crore and thirty lakh. This loss is national only and estimated on the assumption that if these calls would have passed through legal gateways, the Government and service providers could have earned this revenue.